Judges' population ratio

†3411. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fifty judges are required for per ten lakh of population for providing speedy justice;

(b) whether it is also a fact that almost eleven judges are available for per ten lakh of population at present; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) The Law Commission in its 120th Report recommended that the strength of judges per one million population may be increased from 10.5 to 50 judges per million population. The present judge strength in India is 14 per million population (approx.).

The judge strength of the High Courts is reviewed every three years. The last Triennial Review of the Judge strength of the various High Courts was held in 2006. The data received from the High Courts for the triennial review of the judge strength of the High Courts has been analyzed and according to the guidelines fixed for the increase of the strength, only eight High Courts have qualified for increase in their Judge strength. With regard to subordinate judiciary, the Supreme Court, in its judgement of 21st March, 2002, in All India Judges' Association & Ors *Vs.* Union of India & Ors, directed that an increase in the Judge strength from the existing 10.5 or 13 per 10 lakh people to 50 judges per 10 lakh people should be effected and implemented within a period of five years in a phased manner to be determined and directed by the Union Ministry of Law. The Central Government have filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court praying that the increase in judge strength in the Union Territories for which Central Government is administratively responsible be allowed based on workload and pendency of cases. The matter is sub-judice.

Strength of Judges in Jharkhand High Court

†3412. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.